

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH September 27, 2005

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School Committee held a meeting on this date at

7:00 p.m. in the Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Clay, Paul McFadden, Frank Maher, and William Munroe. Superintendent Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr.; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo, and Student Representative Emily DeCristofano were present.

ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Member Maher read the District Mission statement.

OPEN FORUM – Member McFadden distributed copies of RIGL 42-46-5 to members and recommended every member of the committee review their copy.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Emily DeCristofano gave an overview of student issues discussed during a meeting she

recently had with Principal Boulé. She reported they discussed (1) students needing a break for lunch on exam day, should they have to take three exams on a given day, (2) potential parking shortage issues, due to the newly implemented RI Law limiting the number of passengers under the age of 21 students may have riding in their cars, which may impede on students carpooling - Emily did note there have not been any parking shortage issues to date for this year, (3) the district's plan to discontinue the availability of soda in the vending machines and meal prices in the cafeteria – Emily communicated students do not buy soda that often and she doesn't believe the discontinuation will cause an issue, and meal prices in the cafeteria are not comparatively priced for the portions offered for various meals and not all students are aware of what portions are included in a meal price.

Members and Administrators briefly discussed Sodexho meal prices in other districts in comparison to EWG.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Seitsinger gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Chair DeSack requested agenda item A. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session Minutes from September 13, 2005, and Executive Session Minutes II from September 13, 2005 be pulled from the consent agenda.

**Member Clay moved to accept the consent agenda with agenda items
A. Approval of Minutes – Executive Session Minutes from September
13, 2005, and Executive**

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**Session Minutes II from September 13, 2005 pulled. Seconded by
Member McFadden. Voted 7 – 0.**

The following items were approved:

A. Minutes – Regular Minutes of September 13, 2005

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments - (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

**a. Helen King as Sr. High School Student Council Co-Advisor for the
2005-2006 School Year**

**b. Barbara Wilmot as Sr. High School Student Council Co-Advisor
for the 2005-2006 School Year**

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations

4. Grievances

C. Bills – In the amount of \$ 199,876.66

D. Home School Approvals

1. Spencer – Helen

2. Pindak – Kaitlyn, Andrew, Daniel

3. Greene – Kyle, Rachel, and Stephanie

End of Consent Agenda

Superintendent Seitsinger read what correspondence was enclosed.

Correspondence – (1) Copy of a Providence Journal Article regarding Sr. High School Science Teacher Gwynne Millar's National FFA Award

Principal Boulé explained Ms. Millar and four other National FFA Award finalists will be presenting a speech at the upcoming national convention and shortly thereafter will learn who will be this year's recipient.

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Year End Budget Projection 2004 – 2004 – Continuance – Superintendent Seitsinger explained this item was a continuation from the last School Committee meeting, as several members asked for clarification on differences in state aid figures reported and discussed at the previous School Committee meeting.

Director of Administration Robert Ross provided backup detail of 2005 Final Education State Aid Entitlements to the District as a means to go back and discuss the differences in figures reported at the previous meeting. Mr. Ross advised the differences came about as a result of having to back-out funds allocated for Professional Development and Technology from Article monies, as these monies may only be used for these two specific categories 31/18 and must supplement the district budget.

Member McFadden requested, going forward, pertinent supplemental materials be enclosed in members' packets prior to the meeting and not passed out at the meeting. Member McFadden referenced a figure reported on the backup detail of \$7,227,202 – Total FY 2005 State Aid and voiced his concern that the district has no policy to give guidance as to how to report funding, and the fact that these figures show up in the end of the year audit. Member McFadden communicated he understands the practice but does not agree with it, as they are state provided funds. He implied the reason why the

town of Exeter is bringing litigation toward the school district is because it does not report all revenue identified by the state.

Members discussed possibly adding this as a budget line item and the probable misconceptions by community members at the District Financial Meeting if placed as a budget line item. It was further stated that the discussion of the state practice of setting aside funds that do not supplant local budget will be held at another time.

Member McFadden moved to request, going forward, the Actuals be reported to the School Committee on a monthly to bi-monthly basis - to include both Federal Funds/ Title I, II, III, IV, and V monies as well as targeted State Funds - be identified as revenue in the Actuals as well as the expenses being targeted for the Federal funds. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 6 – 1. Chair DeSack voted no.

Student Achievement – High School Brass Quintet – Superintendent Seitsinger referenced an enclosed letter from the RI State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which commended the members of the EWG High School Brass Quintet and their director Mr. Charest for their professional performance at Patriotic Sunday in the Park at Slater Park on September 18, 2005. The Superintendent explained this was just an acknowledgement and offered sincere thanks to Brass Quintet members and Mr. Charest for representing our school so well.

NEW BUSINESS – Vending Machine Content Discussion – Member Maher explained he requested this item be placed on tonight's agenda and gave a summary of events thus

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far leading up to changing vending machine contents to healthy choice snacks and drinks. He communicated the change did not take place prior to the first day of school as hoped; but, at this point in time the process has begun to make the changes. Member Maher talked about concerns with regard to healthy snacks causing an increase in snack prices and the probable short-term loss in the revenue stream as students adjust to the new healthier choices.

Members, Administrators, and School Nurse/Teacher Chris McGrane gave their views regarding the decision to change to healthy snacks. Chair DeSack voiced her concerns that parents and especially students were not invited to take part in the change process.

School Health and Wellness Policy #8705 – 1st Reading – There were no suggestions made to modify this policy. This policy will be placed on the next School Committee meeting agenda for a 2nd Reading.

District Financial Meeting – 8PM or 7PM – Vice Chair Cicero reported she has been approached by parents in the school district requesting the District Financial Meeting starting time be changed from 8:00 p.m.

to 7:00 p.m. She requested members take a vote on this subject in order to begin the process of changing the time.

Members and Administrators discussed the necessary course of action, steps involved, legalities, and notification process.

Member Clay moved to request Exeter and West Greenwich Town Councils to approve a change in the District Financial Meeting start time from 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - it will be up to the School Committee to research and then provide the corrections to the Rhode Island Law. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero.

Member McFadden asked to amend Member Clay's motion to include the School Committee will execute a vote to change the time from 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Member Munroe.

Consensus of the committee was Member Clay's motion and Member McFadden's amendment to the motion, stated above, will become one motion.

Voted 6 – 1. Member Munroe voted no.

Legal Cost – Including Collective Bargaining, Attorney General Complaints by Member McFadden, and Phone Calls – Chair DeSack read RIGL 42-46-5 passage (1) to members and explained members were allowed to discuss the data only. Chair DeSack inquired as to

what the column heading Other included, as its total equaled a large amount of legal costs.

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Director of Administration Robert Ross reported it included any legal costs incurred other than those listed on the report, such as faxes, letters, etc. Mr. Ross and Superintendent Seitsinger reported that Gorham and Gorham do send specific detailed itemized bills to the district which could be provided to members for their review.

Members discussed whether or not it was necessary to receive a detailed breakdown every month. There were differences of opinions concerning the matter. Some suggestions were to see a detailed breakdown once a quarter, administration bringing all invoices to business meetings for members to review if they wish to, or members going to the administration office to view invoices should they wish to.

Member Munroe moved to request Administration provide copies of all invoices on legal fees to members once per quarter. Seconded by Member McFadden.

Voted 5 – 2. Chair DeSack and Member Clay voted no.

Filling Administration Vacancies Policy #6312 – Revision/Adoption – Clerk Coutcher moved to adopt Policy #6312 – Filling Administration Vacancies. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Vote 7 – 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Natural Rubber Latex Gloves – Prohibited Use Policy #6208 – 2nd Reading – There were no suggested modifications regarding this policy. This policy will continue onto the next School Committee agenda for adoption.

Fire Alarm Status/Metcalf School – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported the new radio fire box is in place at Metcalf School. Mr. Ross advised the committee needs to decide whether to direct the business office to go out to bid with regards to repairing Metcalf School's fire alarm system or to proceed in the same manner it did when addressing the Jr. – Sr. High School fire alarm repair issue, which was an emergency purchase. Mr. Ross reported that American Alarm is scheduled to do a walk-through with the Fire Marshal on Thursday in order to prepare an engineering project report. He explained that American Alarm requested clarification as to if they will do the repair as an emergency purchase or if the job will go to bid, in which case they will submit their engineering project report with the dollar amount blank. Mr. Ross and the Superintendent recommended going to bid.

Members and Administrators discussed an estimated timeline regarding this project, scheduling the work to take place during the

2006-2007 fiscal year, the fact that the Fire Marshal required only that the radio fire box be replaced at this time, the need to obtain the bid prior to the District Financial Meeting, and the probability that this item will be a separate resolution at the District Financial Meeting. Consensus of the Committee was to go to bid late winter and they agreed it is not necessary for the business office to bring forward a quote to the committee, as previously requested at a past committee meeting.

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REPORTS/COMMENTS – Chair DeSack reverted back to the items she requested be pulled from the consent agenda, A. Minutes - Executive Meeting Minutes from September 13, 2005, Executive Session Minutes II from September 13, 2005. She asked that both Executive Session Meeting Minutes be sealed. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher.

Members discussed differences of opinion regarding the need to seal Executive Session Minutes II from September 13, 2005.

Chair DeSack amended her motion to seal Executive Meeting Minutes from September 13, 2005 (Student Discipline matter). Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 7 – 0.

Chair DeSack then moved to seal Executive Meeting Minutes II from

September 13, 2005. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero.

Members and Superintendent Seitsinger discussed differences of opinions as to the reason that requires these minutes be sealed. Vice Chair Cicero called for a vote.

Vote 4 – 3. Members Clay, McFadden, and Munroe voted no.

IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – October 11, 2005 – School Committee

Meeting, October 25, 2005 – School Committee Meeting, October 13, 2005 –

Proposed Town Council and School Committee Joint Meeting, October 18, 2005 –

Proposed Legislative Meeting

Executive Session – None

Adjournment – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 7 - 0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK